

CPC MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN CABLE CONFERENCE

Plans to step up citizen involvement in cable television were made in a week-end conference attended by over 100 Pacific Northwest residents including persons from Central Pacific. The Conference was organized by the United Church of Christ Office of Communication and was co-sponsored by Minorities in Cable and the Office of Communication of the Christian Church.

Participants talked about the formation of local coalitions to increase public awareness of cable issues, and to encourage more people to participate in cable franchising and in the use of public access centers. Participants from Seattle stressed the need to bring local residents together to take part in the drafting of new franchises and in the review of public access rules. Persons attending from Portland discussed activities focused on the upgrading of cable franchises and of company performance. They also committed themselves to educational efforts around the use of public access.

A resolution to "share our information and push our respective communities to look at cable TV as a road to community information liberation" was passed by a coalition of ethnic minority participants in the workshop.

Attending the event were ministers and church members, educators, government officials, voluntary and social service representatives, members of women's and minority organizations and cable and broadcast employees. Attending from Central Pacific were Conference Minister from Sevetson; The Reverend Doug Smyth, Forest Grove; and Ted Liljeholm, Portland.

AMERICA'S RELIGIOUS BELIEF IS STRONG

The 1981 "Religion in America" report of the Princeton Religion Research Center found that Americans overwhelmingly believe in God, most of them pray regularly, and nearly half of them are in church every Sunday. Almost every home in the United States has at least one Bible, but people rarely read it, the report also stated.

A variety of measurements "attest to the remarkable stability of religion in America", says George Gallup, Jr., executive director of the center, which is linked to the Gallup Poll organization.

The surveys comprising the 1981 report found the country's religious life to be notably broad and steady, including these factors:

- 93% of the people state a religious preference: 61% Protestant, 28% Catholic, 2% Jewish, 1% Eastern Orthodox, and 1% other religions. About 70% say they are members of a church or synagogue, indicating that a previous downward trend has leveled off.
- 86% say religion is important or fairly important in their lives.
- 65% believe religion is able to answer all or most of today's problems.

CENTRAL PACIFIC WELL REPRESENTED AT WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING

Dr. Walter McGettigan, Dr. M.A.F. Ritchie, The Reverend Peter Paulson and Mrs. Bobbi Gary were a part of the Oregon contingent of delegates and observers attending the White House Conference on Aging which occurred in early December. Hazel McGettigan also attended. These participants are available to report to local churches on the conference. Arrangements can be made through the Task Force on Church and the Aging. Contact the Conference Office

CPC MEMBERS ATTEND WORLD BOARD MEETING



The United Church Board for World Ministries held its Annual Meeting in Louisville, Ky., November 8-11. Attending the meeting were all three corporate members from the Central Pacific Conference. Shown in the picture above (right to left) The Reverend Cathy Barker, Ione; Becky Luther, Hillsboro, who also serves on the UCBWM Board of Directors; and Fred Martin, Ione, who was accompanied by his wife Helen, also seen in the picture.

One of the issues discussed was U.S. immigration policy as it relates to the critical world-wide refugee problem. If you would like a copy of the resolution passed on this issue, if you need any resources on the overseas mission of our denomination, or if you have any questions about the work of the UCBWM, please contact one of these corporate members: Becky Luther, 437 N.E. 6th Street, Hillsboro, 97123; Fred Martin, Box 142, Ione, 97843; The Reverend Cathy Barker, Box 346, Ione, Or. 97843.

The REVEREND WALTER B. CROWELL died on December 27, 1981. Memorial Services were held at the Hubbard Community Church on January 4, 1982

Mr. Crowell served for a number of years as pastor of the Ione United Church of Christ before retiring to Woodburn Estates.

1982 NORTH AMERICAN EVENT FOR CHURCH EDUCATORS

"Refocusing Our Vision" will be the theme for the 1982 North American Event for Church Educators to be held February 14-18 in Louisville, Ky. Many denominations, including the United Church of Christ, will be represented at this annual event sponsored by the ecumenical consortium, Joint Educational Development.

Featured speakers will include clergy from the United Church of Christ. Walter Brueggemann, Professor of Old Testament at Eden Theological Seminary, will speak on the topics: "God's Vision for the World", "God's Vision for the Person".

U.C.C. folks from the local churches and from conference and national offices of our denomination will attend this North American Event, an event designed to bring together church educators and leaders to celebrate their oneness in Christ, and to explore and expand the horizon for church education.

The Association of United Church Educators will meet from February 12-14 in Louisville before the North American Event.

Several Central Pacific Conference educators tentatively are planning to attend this event along with Associate Conference Minister Gene Ross.

YOUTH CABINET ANNOUNCES MIDWINTER '82; ELECT CO-COORDINATORS

Meeting in November, members of the Youth Cabinet devoted most of their efforts to planning MIDWINTER '82 which is scheduled for March 12-14 at Camp Adams. The theme decided on for the week-end gathering, which generally attracts around 175 participants, was "Here We Stand: The Choice Is Ours". Conference Minister Don Severson will keynote the event with an address on the uniqueness of the UCC. Participants will also be able to choose three workshops from a wide variety of subject areas.

Members of the Cabinet elected as Co-Coordinators for the Cabinet are: Jeanette Hanback of Beaver Creek, and Andrea Spuck of Parkrose.

SUMMER CAMPING

1982

CAMP ADAMS
PILGRIM COVE
OFF SITE

CENTRAL PACIFIC
CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

INTERGENERATIONAL CAMPS

- Confirmation Camp (7th-9th grades)
- Camp Adams
August 29-September 1
- Shakespeare Festival Camp
Ashland, Oregon
August 25-27
- Singles Camp (30 +)
Camp Adams
August 20-22
- Sawtooth Back-Pack (Jr. Hi +)
August 1-7
- Salmon River Canoe (Sr. Hi +)
August 8-14
- Mountaineering Camp
(Experienced Climbers only)
Date to be announced.

- PRIMARY MINI-CAMPS (48-hour camping experience beginning at 11 a. m. on Thursday and concluding with a lunch for campers and their families on Saturday. Designed to introduce children to a camping experience. At Pilgrim Cove, open to those going into 3rd & 4th grades.)

July 8-10 Pilgrim Cove
July 8-10 Camp Adams

- JUNIOR CAMPS (5th-6th grades)

July 18-24 Pilgrim Cove
July 11-17 Camp Adams
August 1-7 Camp Adams

- JUNIOR HIGH CAMPS (7th & 8th grades)

July 11-17 Pilgrim Cove
July 18-24 Camp Adams

- MID HIGH CAMP (9th & 10th grades)

August 8-14 Camp Adams

- SENIOR HIGH CAMPS

(9th-12th grades at Pilgrim Cove;
11th-12th grades at Camp Adams)

July 25-31 Pilgrim Cove
August 22-28 Camp Adams

- COLLEGE/CAREER CAMP

(High school graduates - 30 yrs.)

September 3-6 Camp Adams

- FAMILY CAMPS

Family Work Camp Family Weekend
at Pilgrim Cove at Camp Adams
July 2-5 July 30-August 1

- SENIOR ADULT CAMP (60 +)

August 16-18 Camp Adams

Costs and other details of these camps will be sent to the churches in a brochure to be available in March. Persons wishing to volunteer to serve as, or to suggest, potential counselors (college-age and above) are asked to contact Eugene Ross at the Conference Office, 0245 S. W. Bancroft St., Portland, Or. 97201 - Telephone (503) 228-3178.

These opportunities are available not only to persons who comprise the membership of the Central Pacific Conference but to all who are of the appropriate age and are eager to participate in the goals and directions of the camps for which they register. No one shall be denied participation for reasons of race or color or national origin.

NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE

FILMS: The Conference has acquired three new 16 mm films; one on recommendation of the Task Force on Church and Aging, and the other two on recommendation of the Task Force on the Church and Singles.

LILA is a delightful film documentary about Lila Bonner-Miller, an 80-year-old who just won't "talk about senility because I'm not gonna fool with it!" Lila was a member of the first class at the University of Virginia to admit women to its Medical School. A strong believer in self-help, Lila says: "We let the young people sell us a bill of goods.... Life can be exciting if you want it to be.... but you have to make the effort." *LILA can help destroy the stereotypes of the elderly. It should be used not only for obvious audiences like senior citizens' groups, but with youth groups as well.* LILA, in color, runs 28 minutes.

MARILYN AND ORRIN is a film which explores with a family the ways in which their lives were affected by divorce and separation and the paths they took in establishing new lives for themselves. *MARILYN AND ORRIN can help individuals and local church groups explore the ministry needs of recently divorced couples and of single parents.* The film, which runs 11 minutes, has a study guide available to help viewers explore the film.

HARRIET is a film which explores a widow's feelings about the death of her husband. It portrays the decisions which force Harriet Kerr, a minister's widow, to face the fact that she is now single and to begin to develop a new identity. *HARRIET will help individuals and local churches explore ministry to and with persons who are grieving.* The film runs 10 minutes and is accompanied by a discussion guide.

FILMSTRIPS:

THE GIFT OF LAND (a gift to the Conference from the Board for Homeland Ministries) is a series of five filmstrips which discuss the issues of land, ecology, justice and religious commitment. The series grows out of a deep concern for the earth as God's gift to us to be revered and cherished. The text for the series was developed by C. Dean Freudenberger who is a renowned agronomist and Methodist minister. Each filmstrip is accompanied by a study guide. *THE GIFT OF LAND could be used in toto in a week-end retreat setting or could be used over a five-week period with youth and/or adults.* The filmstrips vary in length from 10 minutes to 16 minutes.

GRAVE OF AN UNKNOWN SALVADORAN REFUGEE relates the dramatic experiences of some refugees who have escaped bullets and bombs to reach safety in neighboring Honduras. *The film provides insights into the Christian organizations attempting to minister to the needs of these refugees.* The filmstrip, accompanied by a study guide, runs 25 minutes.

These films and filmstrips are available through the Conference Office for scheduling.

PRINTED MATERIALS:

GENERAL SYNOD 13 PACKET is a series of 28 statements from General Synod 13 prepared by the Office for Church in Society. A free copy has been sent directly to each church. Additional packets of GS 13 Pronouncements and Resolutions can be purchased from the Conference Office at \$2.50 for the complete packet; 25¢ for each of the Pronouncements and 10¢ for the Resolutions. *These resources are excellent material for adult education and youth ministry programs.*

The Local Scene

The Forest Grove UCC has voted to sponsor a second Homestreet project in their community. This project will provide for four men who are ready for discharge from state mental institutions who need an interim home to go to before they can be released. The church will locate a rental home, put it into adequate physical shape, furnish it and - most importantly - provide supportive services to the residents of the home.

Pilgrimage UCC, Boise, has moved! Having outgrown the original house used by the congregation for worship and office space, members of Pilgrimage voted to move one block away to the Eastgate Shopping Center where they now occupy a "storefront". Pastor Bill Hawk reports that most of the responses to the move have been positive. Shoppers have been curious about the shopping center's newest occupant. One comment shared was: "This is a welcome addition to this center." Central Pacific Conference's first New Initiative in Church Development continues to expand.

Rivercrest Community Church, UCC, Portland, has installed in their new sanctuary three stained glass windows which originally were installed in Zion Congregational Church. Having been stored for almost 10 years, the windows have been re-installed at the new church, thanks to the efforts of four members of the Rivercrest congregation.

Gaston UCC has a used "old" AB Dick #77 mimeograph machine available at no charge to any church wanting it. Call Interim Pastor Vince Stageberg at 635-4644 if you are interested.

Members of the Idaho Association will gather at First Congregational Church, UCC, Idaho Falls, on Sunday, January 24, to install the Reverend Jeff Barton as Minister of that church. A graduate of Illiff Seminary, Denver, the Reverend Mr. Barton has served the church since mid-Summer.

The Board of Christian Outreach of First Congregational Church, UCC, Eugene, raised almost \$500 by sponsoring a Fast for a World Harvest in conjunction with Oxfam America. The money

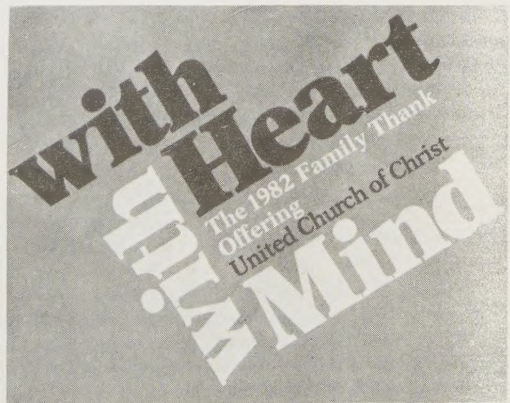
raised will be donated to Oxfam for its self-development projects in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

St. Andrew's Community Church, UCC, Portland, has called Louis Osborne to be their Minister. Louis had been serving the congregation as Associate Pastor and then Interim following the death of The Reverend Cortlandt Cambric. In addition to his role as Pastor of St. Andrew's, Louis will continue to serve as head of the Fair Housing Office for HUD in Portland. Installation of Mr. Osborne will occur at 4:00 p.m. on January 31.

Welcome to The Reverend R. Ted Holland, Mary and daughters, who have moved to White Salmon since the last edition of the NEWS. The Reverend Mr. Holland has been called as Minister of Bethel United Church of Christ and will be seeking a position in higher education as well.

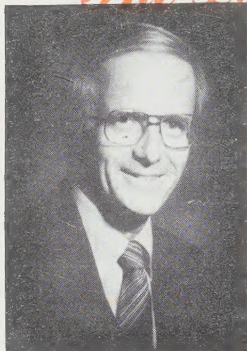
Welcome also to The Rev. Bradford Blunt and Jill. The Blunts have been called to Riverside Community Church, UCC, Hood River. They come to Central Pacific from Broadus, Montana.

Members of the Hubbard Community Church, UCC, and the Aurora Presbyterian Church gathered at Hubbard on December 20 to honor The Reverend Burton Alvis and Sarah upon Burton's retirement. Burton will be serving as Minister of Visitation for Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland.



Colorful, bold graphics capture the new "look" of Family Thank Offering materials this year. Is your family participating in this offering? For further information, contact your minister or the Conference Office.

The Last Word



A Christmas message from the Midwest told of the death, last September, of a man with whom I had worked closely for ten years. a lifelong paraplegic, John had died at 74, following a rich, full life -- a distinguished career in urban planning, a loving family, a happy, confident disposition. Enclosed was a memoir that he

had written four years ago. It included these lines:

"All my life I have seen and known people who were so taken with the active things in life that they passed right by nearly all the things in life that I hold dear... my venture into life was slowed down so that I developed an appreciation for the simple things around me."

I think that more is involved here than a reminder to "stop and smell the roses" (although John was an avid gardener). What his words reveal is the tremendous, terrible provincialism of the successful, the "healthy".

Who among us would choose to live a life encompassed by disability? Who among us would want to go to prison as a member of Solidarity? Who would choose to be a refugee, or a member of a discriminated against minority? And who among us would want these 'deprivations' for our children?

In Parker Palmer's new book, The Company of Strangers (Crossroad; New York), he writes :

"...our private worlds seldom bring us into contact with the poor, the sick, the broken. In fact, we have put much energy into creating private worlds for each of these 'classes' of people so they will not haunt our lives".

More contact would increase our compassion,

but perhaps it would do something even more profound. Slowing down, spending time, listening to the "poor, the sick, the broken" would reveal to us remarkable stories of courage, as well as penetrating insights into the nature of the world in which God has placed us. This is what freedom really means: transcending our fears, and living lives of sharing, giving, and risk.

May 1982 in our churches be a year in which strangers are welcomed, the sick and the imprisoned are visited, the naked are clothed, the homeless housed, the hungry fed, the Good News preached, and we all rediscover Christian Freedom.

- Donald J. Severson

ALICE (Cravath) GORDON ELSHOFF, a Portland area resident for over 65 years, was born in Audubon, Minn., June 24, 1899. She died in a Forest Grove residential care facility, December 16, 1981, at the age of 81 years.
She was a 56-year member of First Congregational Church, UCC, Portland, and was very active in local and national church life.

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